

Amendments to Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An isolated 16S rDNA sequence indicative of a dechlorinating bacterial strain selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) SEQ ID NO:8, and
 - (b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that is completely complementary to (a) ;
- wherein said sequence is indicative of a dechlorinating bacterial strain

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) An isolated bacterial strain comprising the isolated 16S rDNA of Claim 1, wherein said strain has the ability to dechlorinate chlorinated compounds provided however that the strain is not *Dehalococcoides ethenogenes* DHE-195.

Claims 6 – 14 (Canceled)